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157,885 marks the difference between Republican and Democratic policies and administrations. From a popular standpoint it marks the difference between general prosperity and universal depression of business.

## TWO DAYS FOR STATE CONVENTION.

The two or three Republicans who have sent communications to the Journal urging that the Republican State convention should hold sessions during two days are simply the spokesmen of the large number of Republicans who believe that the best interests of the State and the party demand such a change. When not more than a third of the delegates remained to complete the important business of the late State convention after midnight, it was the very general opinion that two days were needed. Conventions in this State have more nominations to make, as a rule, than in most States. The conventions are larger, and consequently it takes more time for roll calls and footings. New York and Ohio continue their important State conventions over two days, for the reason that it has been found to be impossible to transact the business properly in one day.

But for the contested seats, a national convention could more properly attempt to nominate a ticket in a single day than could the Republican State convention crowd into twenty-four hours nearly a dozen important nominations. The only thing which could be urged against adjourning at 10 or 11 o'clock in the evening to the next day, with a half or two-thirds of the nominations made, is that it would afford opportunity for combinations. This objection can have no force when considered. As a rule, the more time a body of delegates has to consider nominations the better will be the candidates. A body of men who have been almost continuously in session ten or eleven hours are certainly in no condition to make important nominations. The adjournment of a convention when twelve hundred men are present would have a better effect than if made when only two or three hundred were present.

It is a very inclement day when the country is not presented with a bulletin by the Hon. J. C. Clarkson and the Hon. Joseph H. Manly.

If the Cuban insurgents act any more like bandits and barbarians than the Spanish troops do they must be an exceptionally bad lot.

Republicans who have voted against the free-coinage proposition in the present Congress have expressed the best sort of an opinion on the money question.

If Spanish gunboats continue to fire upon and search American vessels without cause, our cruisers should not remain in the dry-docks longer than necessary.

Secretary Hoke Smith seems to find the flaunting of his pension record more effective in popularizing Clevelandism in Georgia than the preaching of sound money.

If the advocates of a single tax would go one step further and advocate the abolition of all taxes they would have an immense following of impecunious patriots.

Considering the number of vessels loaded with arms that have recently succeeded in reaching Cuba, the insurgents ought to be fairly well supplied by this time.

The struggles to get office, the troubles while holding it, and the fights to hold it even a brief period in this State must lead many to conclude that the game isn't worth the candle.

The State officers of Kentucky, having been interviewed on the subject, are unanimous that Governor Bradley is the logical candidate for President. The expression has a familiar sound.

It must have required the exercise of self-denial for Chicago officials to strike forty thousand fraudulent names from its voting lists, so much more than all else do large numbers count in that city.

Since the Senate will pass no financial legislation to relieve the treasury and the country, there is not a particle of reason why Congress may not adjourn a month hence, as proposed by Senator Platt.

The friends of the presidential candidates will not make anything by attacking Speaker Reed for trying to hold down the appropriations of Congress and secure an early adjournment. The people wish him success in both.

While there is little probability that Senator Tillman, of "pitchfork" reputation, will be the Democratic candidate for President, what a demoralized condition that party must be in that such a man should aspire to be its leader!

The New Hampshire Republicans did not pledge their delegates to the national convention, but left it to the intelligence and honor of the delegates to support Mr. Reed, whom the convention favored, or some other man if the conditions should change so as to make it advisable.

Ohio Republicans now wish they had been as emphatic in their declaration on the free coinage question as the Republicans of Massachusetts were. Well, why were they not? They knew well enough what they ought to say, and there was a dictionary full of words to choose from.

The New Hampshire Republican convention, over which Senator Chandler presided, said a good word for Governor McKinley as well as for Speaker Reed, which goes to show that the Republicans of the Granite State do not believe the assertions which their Senator has made against the Ohio man.

If the directors of a corporation ignored its business and neglected its interests as the United States Senate does those of the American people the stockholders would embrace the first opportunity to make a change in the directory. The trouble is, it takes a long time to revolutionize the Senate.

The Minneapolis Tribune is of opinion that the Republican party can hardly afford to accept Texas through a partnership with the Populists formed to get control of the offices of that State and nothing else. The Tribune is right; political fusion has never brought advantage or credit to any respectable organization.

The end of March adds another month to the list of cumulative deficits under the Wilson-Gorman tariff. During the nineteen months that the law has been in operation the receipts of the government have been \$481,423,501 and the expenditures \$575,581,385, making a deficiency of \$194,157,884. During the first nineteen months of the McKinley tariff government receipts were \$569,914,004 and expenditures were \$641,899,783, a surplus of \$81,984,783. The difference between a surplus of \$81,984,783 and a deficit of \$194,157,884 is \$276,164,567.

The facts in the other case were somewhat different, but the general principle was the same. The Louisville and Nashville railroad being about to purchase and consolidate with the Chesapeake & Ohio Southwestern under a clause in its charter granted in 1850, authorizing it to "purchase and hold any road constructed by another company,"

the courts of Kentucky enjoined such consolidation on the ground that the new Constitution of Kentucky prohibited the consolidation of parallel lines of railroads. The Supreme Court held that even if the right to purchase other lines granted in the original charter of the Louisville & Nashville road included the right to consolidate, there was no doubt of the right of the people, through the Constitution, to prohibit such consolidation.

These two decisions assert in the strongest possible manner the principle that railroad corporations, being created by the people, are subject to legislative and constitutional control, and that it is the undoubted right, if not the plain duty, of legislatures to prevent the building up of monopolies by the consolidation of parallel lines of railroads. Now, if every State Legislature in the Union will enact a law prohibiting such consolidations there will be an end of them and a great point gained in favor of the maintenance of competing lines and rates.

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If this is intended to imply anything peculiar in the movements of the moon on the Pacific coast this year it is, of course, erroneous, and if it merely relates to the difference of time between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts the same thing has happened frequently. The difference of actual time between New York and San Francisco is three hours, and the difference of standard time is very nearly the same, standard time being four minutes slower than actual at New York and ten minutes faster at San Francisco. When it is noon in New York by Eastern time it is 1 o'clock a. m. by central time, 10 o'clock a. m. by mountain time and 9 o'clock a. m. by Pacific time. Thus it must always happen that, according to local time, there is a difference of three hours between the occurrence of an event simultaneously in New York and San Francisco. But in this case the same rule would apply to the central and mountain divisions of the country, in each of which the full moon occurred before midnight on the 28th inst., whereas in the Eastern division it occurred after midnight. In other words, if March 29 was Easter Sunday on the Pacific coast it was equally so in all parts of the United States west of about the longitude of Detroit.

But the real explanation of the supposed phenomenon lies in the fact that there is no phenomenon about it. In other words, its supposed existence is due to a misunderstanding or misapplication of the Gregorian rule for ascertaining Easter. It is true that Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox, but Pope Gregory in his famous calendar calculated the Pascal full moon as being on the fourteenth day of the calendar month at the time of the vernal equinox. Therefore, even if the moon did "full" on the evening of Saturday, March 28, the following Sunday would not be Easter because Saturday was not the fourteenth day of the calendar month. Finally, it must be remembered that Easter is an institution of the Catholic Church, not of astronomy, and while Catholic councils and Popes may not always have been thoroughly versed in science, they have generally known what they were about when they undertook to fix church feasts and holidays. There is no trouble about Easter. It comes for the whole world on April 5.

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